



**U.S. Department of Justice**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**TEN INDIVIDUALS WITH CONNECTIONS TO THE CYRIL E. KING  
AIRPORT ON ST. THOMAS INDICTED ON CONSPIRACY TO POSSESS  
WITH INTENT TO DISTRIBUTE COCAINE AND HEROIN**

Acting United States Attorney Anthony J. Jenkins announced today that a federal grand jury returned a true bill on September 2, 2004, charging ten individuals from St. Thomas with one count of conspiracy to possess with intent to distribute cocaine and heroin, and ten counts of possession with intent to distribute cocaine and/or heroin. Cocaine is a Schedule II Narcotic Drug Controlled Substance, and heroin is a Schedule I Narcotic Drug Controlled Substance; both are violations of the Controlled Substances Act.

As of today, nine of the ten individuals have been arrested, and are identified as follows:

1) DION BROOKES, age 37, MERVIN DORIVAL, age 39, ROBERT RAWLINS, age 25, BERNARD GABRIEL, age 39, CLYDE EDINBOROUGH, JR., age 35, MELEEK SLYVESTOR, age 32, DANNY RAWLINS, age 42, BRENT DONOVAN, age 30, and STEFON WILSON, age 39.

Attorney Jenkins stated that this indictment is the culmination of a year-long investigation, led by the Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement and the Drug

Enforcement Administration, into narcotics trafficking at the Cyril E. King Airport on St. Thomas. He further stated that most of the defendants charged work as baggage handlers at the airport, or in a position with similar access to luggage, and are alleged to facilitate the shipment of narcotics to the United States through the airport by loading commercial airplanes with suitcases containing narcotics.

The indictment alleges that usually, the defendants would place false luggage tags, or tags that they had removed from legitimate luggage, onto the suitcases containing narcotics, and then load the drug-filled suitcases onto commercial airline flights. The narcotics were usually shipped to New Jersey, New York, Florida, or Pennsylvania.

Each defendant faces a potential mandatory minimum term of imprisonment of ten years, and a maximum of life, along with a five million dollar fine.

Attorney Jenkins thanked Roberto G. Medina, Special Agent-in-Charge, Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), Jerome Harris, Special Agent-in-Charge, Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), Terrance Drafts, Area Port Director, U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) and Commissioner Elton Lewis of the Virgin Islands Police Department, for their hard work in successfully investigating and bringing this case to fruition, without incident. He also thanked the Transportation and Security Administration (TSA) and the Virgin Islands Port Authority (VIPA) Police for their assistance in today's arrests. Attorney Jenkins also expressed his appreciation to former U.S. Attorney David Nissman for his leadership during the period that this matter was under active investigation.

Attorney Jenkins emphasized that the Indictment is merely a formal charging document and that all the defendants are presumed innocent unless and until guilt is established at trial.